

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR SUNDAY October 3, 2021 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: Job 1:1-1; 2:1-10

1There was once a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. That man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil.

2:1One day the heavenly beings came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the Lord. 2The Lord said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the Lord, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." 3The Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil. He still persists in his integrity, although you incited me against him, to destroy him for no reason." 4Then Satan answered the Lord, "Skin for skin! All that people have they will give to save their lives. 5But stretch out your hand now and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face." 6The Lord said to Satan, "Very well, he is in your power; only spare his life."

7So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord, and inflicted loathsome sores on Job from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. 8Job took a potsherd with which to scrape himself, and sat among the ashes.

9Then his wife said to him, "Do you still persist in your integrity? Curse God, and die." 10But he said to her, "You speak as any foolish woman would speak. Shall we receive the good at the hand of God, and not receive the bad?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

Psalm: Psalm 26

1 Give judgment for me, O Lord, for I have lived with integrity;
I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered.

2 Test me, O Lord, and try me;
examine my heart and my mind.

3 For your steadfast love is before my eyes;
I have walked faithfully with you.

4 I have not sat with the worthless,
nor do I consort with the deceitful.

5 I have hated the company of evildoers;
I will not sit down with the wicked.

6 I will wash my hands in innocence, O Lord,
that I may go in procession round your altar,

7 singing aloud a song of thanksgiving
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

8 Lord, I love the house in which you dwell
and the place where your glory abides.

9 Do not sweep me away with sinners,
nor my life with those who thirst for blood,

10 whose hands are full of evil plots,
and their right hands full of bribes.

11 As for me, I will live with integrity;
redeem me, and be gracious to me.

12 I take my stand on level ground;
in the full assembly I will bless the Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 10:2-16

2Some Pharisees came, and to test [Jesus] they asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" 3He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" 4They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her." 5But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. 6But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' 7'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, 8and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. 9Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

10Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. 11He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; 12and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

13People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. 14But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. 15Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." 16And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.